

Appl. No. 10/808,697  
RCE Amendments

Attorney Docket No. WS-106

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 31, 40, 42, and 44 were amended. Claims 6, 32 were canceled. Claims 7, 33, and 37 were previously canceled. Claims 4, 8-10, 14-18, 20, 24-28, 30, 34-36, 38-39 41, 42 remain unchanged.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (US Patent Application Publication U.S. 2004/0093309). The Examiner argued that Nakamura discloses an apparatus, system and method for electronic ticket management and electronic ticket distribution authentication. The Examiner further argued that Nakamura's system includes the following elements:

- A. A ticket database server (111) for managing data concerning electronic tickets which the Examiner considered to be analogous to the Voucher host system of this invention.
- B. A non-contact IC card (1000) as an example of the information storage chip, which the Examiner considered analogous to the voucher smart card of this invention.
- C. An electronic ticket issuer (202) in cooperation with an electronic ticket seller (130), which can be a store terminal (150) and which the Examiner considered to be analogous to the Voucher terminal of this invention.

Claim 1 was amended to specify that the system for generating and storing electronic voucher includes, in addition to the voucher host system and the voucher smart card, a mobile communication device that includes a subscriber identification module (SIM) card slot. The mobile communication device is adapted to connect to the voucher host system via a network connection and to download prepaid electronic vouchers. A smart card reader/writer is adapted to electrically connect to the SIM card slot of the communication device and to receive the prepaid electronic vouchers and to store them in the voucher smart card. Claim 22 was amended in a similar way. The above claim amendments are fully supported by the original specification as filed (see page 9, lines 25-31, page 10, lines 1-5, and claim 5 of this application) and do not contain any new matter.

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After careful examination of the Examiner's arguments and the cited patent application by Nakamura et al., we find the following differentiations of claim 1.

Nakamura does not suggest using a mobile communication device or a card reader/writer that is adapted to connect to a SIM card slot of the communication device. This particular connection mechanism of the card reader/writer to the SIM card slot of the communication device is unique to the system of claim 1.

According to the Examiner's argument "the reader has a function for reading the ID number of the user and the electronic ticket information from the information storage chip", (i.e., the voucher smart card). "if the information storage device (i.e., the voucher card) is a contact IC card, a card reader provided with a card entrance slot and a card exit slot is provided. The writer writes new electronic ticket information into the information storage chip of the user who is permitted to buy a ticket by the authentication unit. This argument does not suggest that the system includes a mobile communications device or that the card reader connects to a SIM card slot of the communication device.

The Examiner further argues that "the network may be a wireless or wired network". Again this argument does not suggest that the system includes a mobile communication device or that the card reader connects to a SIM card slot of the communication device.

Neither Nakamura nor any of the other cited prior art documents suggest either alone or in combination a system for generating and storing prepaid electronic vouchers that includes a card reader/writer and a mobile communication device and where the card reader/writer is connected to a SIM card slot of the communication device. This particular configuration has the following two advantages: a) universality in the connectivity of the card reader/writer by connecting it to the SIM card slot, rather than to a parallel or serial port of the communication device; and b) secure authentication through the SIM card module of the communication device.

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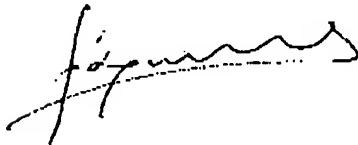
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The same arguments are valid for independent claim 22. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 22 are patentably distinguishable from Nakamura et al., or any of the cited prior art documents taken alone or in combination. Claims 2-6 and 8-21 depend upon claim 1 and claims 23-28, 30-32, 34-36, and 38-44 depend upon claim 22. Since claims 1 and 22 are distinguishable from the cited prior art they should also be distinguishable from the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

If this response is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at 617-558-5389

Respectfully submitted,



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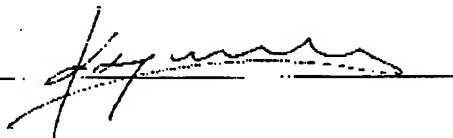
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